

Quotes from the Ages...Quotes from the Sages

This strategy helps students to see the underlying message in the few words of a quote or “one-liner” and to examine their own thoughts, feelings, and aspirations.

Teacher Preparation:

1. Gather a varied selection of famous quotes or provide materials for students to find the quotes themselves.
2. Preview websites providing quotations: www.quotationspage.com, www.quoteland.com, www.quoteworld.org, etc.
3. Make a copy of the handout (4-5-2) for each student.

Lesson Plan:

1. Have students examine a few famous quotes from famous people, looking for the meaning underneath the words.
2. Have students examine lots of quotes until they find one that is personally meaningful to them.
3. Direct students to follow the activity instructions on the handout.

Adapted from *More Than a Test Score: Gifted and Teenage, Too*, presented by Dr. James R. Delisle to the Academically Gifted Department of the Wake County Public School System on November 16, 2007.

Quotes from the Ages...Quotes from the Sages

Books contain thousands of words, movies contain hundreds of lines of script, and songs contain dozens of lines of rhyme or verse. Yet, even in the best written book, movie, or song, a few “one-liners” stand out. Consider these:

- “To be or not to be. That is the question.”
- “My mom always said ‘life is like a box of chocolates—you never know what you’re gonna get.’”

The reason that one-liners often leave an impact that is bigger and longer lasting than you might assume a few simple words can have is that there is an underlying message in those few words—something that makes us hope, or dream, or remember, or smile. Examine these quotes from famous people, looking for the meaning underneath the words:

- I am not afraid of storms, for I am learning to sail my ship. –Helen Keller
- Not all who wander are lost. –J.R.R. Tolkein
- One person with courage is a majority. –Thomas Jefferson
- No person is your friend who demands your silence or denies your right to grow. –Alice Walker
- When you were born, everyone around you was smiling and you were the one crying. Live life so that when you die, everyone around you is crying and you are the one smiling. –Anonymous
- The only thing worse than being denied opportunities is being forced to take them. –Eric Grevstad

Your assignment:

1. Examine lots of quotes until you find one that is personally meaningful to you. You can use one of the quotations above, browse through books of quotations, or visit one or more of these websites:
 - www.quotationspage.com
 - www.quoteland.com
 - www.quoteworld.org
2. Find a quote that educates or amuses you or relates in some way to your life (the one you have already led, the one you are leading now, or the one you hope to lead in the future).
3. Copy the quote in large size font (36 point is a good choice) at the top of a sheet of paper.
4. Under the quote, write a two-paragraph explanation of why you chose this quote over all others:
 - The **first** paragraph:
 - Explain what you think the author meant by this quote.
 - The **second** paragraph:
 - Explain, in detail, what this quote means to you.
 - Give a specific example from your life where this quote came in handy or could have come in handy to help you understand something that occurred.

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